

# Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

Our 43rd ARRL affiliated year  
Special Service Club

Serving Greater Springfield, MA

## President's Remarks

The January VHF contest was a lot of fun, even in spite of the adverse weather (snow, ice etc.) which interfered with the antenna systems. Our club station W1NY, had its share of additional problems, power and equipment malfunctions. Our hats are off to Art, W1KK the club station trustee and the crew of operators who spent many long hours making contacts and fixing the equipment. Special appreciation goes to all the club members who helped raise the club score by making contacts on all VHF frequencies. Don't forget to send in your reports either to the ARRL or to the HCRA (or bring them to the next meeting).

At the February meeting John Lindholm, W1XX will give his thoughts on VHF. See the writeup elsewhere in the newsletter.

Your Board is working on the premise that you want your club to be broad in Ham Radio scope, as you indicated in last years survey (summarized in the December, 89 issue of Zero Beat). To accomplish this we are planning to have a flea market on April 29, at the Agawam High School (see Fred, N1DPM, he's looking for volunteers to assist). In May we are planning to have a meeting on radio control of airplanes, we

may even have a demonstration (see Jim, N1DUY, if you have any ideas on how we can do this). If you have any interest in a particular subject please let any of the Board members know, their names are listed elsewhere.

73 and see you at the next meeting, de K1BXE, Yorke

## About the VHF Contest...

This year's VHF contest will be one to remember. Mother nature decided to hand us a big snow and ice storm right in the middle of the contest weekend. Many stations in the northeast were rendered usable due to ice buildups on their antenna systems. And for those who could get on the air, there was no one to contact, because everyone else was off.

The W1NY station was affected by the storm on 2 meters, 220 Mhz, and 432. The 6 meter amp shorted out it's power switch, which was not likely a result of the storm, but nevertheless rendered the amp useless for most of Sunday.

A good portion of W1NY's contacts were made on 2m, 220, and 440 FM. Without the good turnout on FM, W1NY's score would be even lower than it is. This was a particularly important year for local FM activity, and we appreciate all

**Next meeting will be Friday, February 2nd, 8:00PM at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church**

**Next board meeting will be Thursday, February 8th, 7:30PM at Greg, N1AEH's house**

**Next VE exam will be Wednesday, February 7th, 7:00PM at the Agawam High School**

## Club Officers

President—Yorke Phillips, K1BXE  
Vice President—Stan Hilinski, KA1ZE  
Treasurer—Greg Stoddard, N1AEH  
Secretary/Clerk—Jeanette Platanitis, KA1MEW

## Board of Directors

Jim Sebolt, N1DUY	Ed Goldberg, WA1PLS
Larry Lemoine, N1EPE	Fred Stefanik, N1DPM
Steve Nelson, WA1EYF	Frank Potts, NC1I
Cliff Junkins, W1UWX	Bob Lafleur, NQ1C

who participated in the contest even to make just a handful of contacts.

Please don't forget to send in your contest entry to the ARRL. It is very important that you do this, and make sure that the Hampden County Radio Association is marked as your club (if you're using one of our preprinted forms that we distributed, it will already be, if you're using one from the ARRL, you'll have to write it in yourself). We need 50 club members to send in their entries in order to be entered in the "unlimited" category.

If you have any questions about filling out your contest entry, please bring it to the meeting and we will be glad to help you. Or you can call Bob, NQ1C at (413) 737-8503. You can also contact Fred, N1DPM, or Stan, KA1ZE about your contest entry.

This was surely a contest to remember. Who knows what next year will bring...

## **W1NY Packet Mailbox Status**

The W1NY Packet mailbox has been under the SYSOP control of NQ1C for just about a year now. Here's a quick rundown of where the BBS stands.

The system is currently running the AA4RE multiconnect BBS software version 2.8, with NQ1C modifications. 4 simultaneous connects are currently supported.

The hardware is an XT with an 8 Mhz V20 chip, 704K of memory, 360K 5.25" disk drive, 720K 3.5" disk drive, and 20 meg hard drive. The TNC is a dual-port DRSI card, connected to a Kenwood TM-2550 into a Hustler G6-144 for 145.01, and a Kenwood 3530 into a cusscraft beam for 221.05.

In the past year, the BBS has handled over 26,500 messages and has about 380 registered users. The system knows how to forward directly to over 50 different BBS systems, and can send messages anywhere in the world through these systems.

Plans are being made to add a 70cm 9600 baud port for forwarding directly into the NEDA (North East Digital Association) network backbone, and to install the G8BPQ network software. The number of simultaneous connects

allowed will probably also be increased to 8, as more and more users are finding the system busy.

If you have any questions about the bulletin board, please contact Bob, NQ1C.

---

## **February Meeting: W1XX on VHF Contesting**

John Lindholm, W1XX, Manager of Membership Communications Services for the ARRL, will be giving a talk of VHF contest operations at our next meeting. John's specialty in the VHF contest is operating portable. He has operated the contest from such places as FN00, FN01, on top of the UN building in New York, and Cadillac Mountain in Maine.

John has come in 2nd place in the Multi-Multi category in some of the recent VHF contests. He'll be bringing some slides to show us about some of his operations.

This should be an excellent meeting. Frank, NC1I will be the meeting host. Hope to see you there!

---

## **For Sale**

Gent Lam, WA1CQF (413-562-7100) has the following for sale:

Kenwood TS-940S/AT, YK88C-1 Mint \$1775  
3-500Z Linear amp 80-10m, 240V line, full wave PS \$395  
3-500Z Linear, same as above with more bells \$475  
Moseley TA-33 Jr 3 el beam, CD-45 rotor, 27' tilt-over tower \$200  
Bencher paddle w/built in keyer, relay output keys any rig \$55  
KW Roller Inductor tuner, \$65  
Simpson 260 multimeter \$55  
Leader LCR-740 RLC Bridge \$120  
Tandy DT 100 Video terminal \$15  
2 Televideo 905 terminals, 1 spare board, manual \$50  
13.8vdc 20amp regulated PS \$75  
13.8vdc 25amp regulated PS, metered \$100  
Coax phase meter (SWR indicator) \$20  
6 4-250 tubes and 4 sockets \$75  
variacs, coax, meters, misc

Mike, W1DGJ (413-583-6678) has the following for sale:

Drake TR-4C transceiver with AC-4 power supply  
Drake TR-4CW transceiver with AC-4 power supply  
Drake RV4C external VFO  
DX Engineering speech processor for Drake line



## Some info on μSATs

The new μSAT (Microsat) satellites were successfully launched on the weekend of January 20th. One of these satellites, PACSAT, is a packet radio satellite that requires use of a special PSK packet modem. Another satellite, DOVE, uses standard FM packet.

You can listen for these satellites telemetry on 145.825 Mhz. If you monitor 145.825 between 9:00 and 10:00 pm with packet, you may be able to copy DOVE sending it's telemetry. If you monitor 145.825 with packet, please shut your TNC beacon off. DOVE does not receive on this frequency, and if you transmit, you will only interfere with other stations trying to monitor DOVE

The other two Amateur Radio satellites that were launched with PACSAT and DOVE are LUSAT, and WEBERSAT..

## VE Exams

Exams are sponsored by the HCRA on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM sharp at the Agawam High School. VE's are also needed. If you are interested in taking an exam or helping give exams, please contact Jeanette KA1MEW at 786-1463.

The next exam will be October 4th.

## HCRA Meetings

First Friday of each month at Feeding Hills Congregational Church Center of Feeding Hills Intersection of routes 57 & 187 Doors open at 7:30 PM Meeting starts promptly at 8:00 PM

## Local Nets

HCRA 10 Meter Net	Thursday 9:00 PM 28.650
Nutmeg VHF Traffic Net	Daily 9:30 PM 146.28/88
80 Meter Ragchew Net	Tuesday 8:00 PM 3.709 Mhz
WMPN	Daily 6:00 PM 3.937
WMSN	Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 PM 3.713
WMN	Daily 7:00 PM 3.562
WMTN	Monday-Friday 1:00 PM 146.31/91
CPN	Monday-Saturday 6:00 PM 3.965
	Sunday 10:00 AM 3.965
Mt. Tom Information Net	Wednesday 7:30 PM 146.34/94
Mt. Tom Swap Net	Follows Mt. Tom Information Net
Mt. Tom Emergency Net	Sunday 8:45 AM 146.34/94
Agawam Civil Defense Net	Monday 8:00 PM 449.175 & 146.70
RASON	Daily 9:00 PM 146.13/73
WESCON	Daily 8:30 PM 147.78/18
CN	Daily 7:00 & 10:00 PM 3.640
CSN	Monday-Friday 7:30 PM 3.720
CSTN	KY1T PBBS, 145.01 Mhz

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.  
P O Box 482  
West Springfield MA 01090-0482  
Editor: Bob Lafleur, NQ1C

Forwarding & Address  
Correction Requested



10/90 AC1T